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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	Technicians in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Zone	DATE DISTR.	22 October 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) uses foreign technicians in its industrial, defense, and agricultural organizations. Foreign technicians were used in the various intelligence organizations, but this practice ceased in late 1951. A majority of the technicians are German and Japanese. The former had been in China and Burma and were recommended by the Southeast Asia Committee of the Communist Party. The latter were soldiers in the Japanese occupation forces in World War II.
2. The DRV has technical committees composed of Communist members who are responsible for assigning these foreign technicians to various activities. Vietnamese technicians such as Luong Ngoc Khue, a chemical engineer in charge of the Department of War Materials Manufacturing of the Ministry of National Defense, who does not belong to any party, are also controlled by these committees.
3. There is no superior technical training school in the DRV zone. DRV technicians are still sent abroad to the satellite countries, particularly to Prague, for training. When this training is completed, the technicians return to work in various DRV organizations as assistants. As soon as they have gained sufficient experience, they assume the direction of the organizations.¹
4. Because foreign technicians are scattered throughout the DRV zone and have assumed Vietnamese names, it is impossible to determine how many technicians there are. The only reliable information now available is that there are over 20 foreign technicians, mostly Germans, working in the Ministry of National Defense. There are two to three hundred foreign-trained Vietnamese technicians in the DRV zone. Some have been forced to join the Lao Dong Party, but many collaborate with the DRV solely on the basis of nationalism.²

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5. The DRV is also using technicians to help farmers develop better agricultural methods. Many technicians who have graduated from the French agriculture training school in Tuyen Quang are used for this purpose. These technicians indoctrinate the farmers with Communist ideology to facilitate DRV control.

Comments

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1. Source does not make it clear whether the DRV makes it a practice to replace the foreign technicians with foreign-trained Vietnamese technicians.
2. Since it is unlikely that the DRV would send students who are not Party members abroad for training, the technicians mentioned here presumably received their training before the advent of the DRV and thus have probably had considerable practical experience.

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